

MINORITY OWNED AND LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

6th Floor Council Conference Room, Council Office Building

Members Present

Mayra Bayonet Herman Taylor, Chair
Margo Briggs
Warren Fleming
Janice Freeman

Members Absent

Cherian Eapen
Julian Haffner
Bethsaida Wong

County Staff Present:

Linda McMillan, County Council
Mary Anne Paradise, County Council
Linda Price, County Council

I. Call to Order

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Taylor at 5:49 p.m. and the minutes of August 26, 2015, were approved by all members present.

II. Worksession

Ms. Price distributed copies of additional recommendations for further discussion. She and Ms. Federman-Henry explained and provided examples of “bridge” contracts in response to a question from Mr. Fleming. It was suggested that a possible additional recommendation would be that the Director of the Office of Procurement be more cautious when approving bridge contracts so that minority and LSBRP businesses have more opportunities for participation. The recommendation was approved without objection.

Members discussed the recommendation to establish preference points for Local-MFD prime contractors. Mr. Fleming made a motion duly seconded, to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Members discussed the recommendation that unjustified contract bundling be prevented, as it limits opportunities for small businesses. Mr. Fleming made a motion, duly seconded, to approve the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McMillan and Ms. Federman-Henry discussed the recommendation by Mr. Fleming to establish a mandate, rather than a goal, of 35% for local MFD subcontracting.

Ms. Federman-Henry commented on potential legal challenges associated with a mandate. Ms. Briggs made a motion, duly seconded, to change the word “goal” to “mandate” in the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Draft Report

Ms. Price distributed the rough draft of the report to members. She noted that the online survey officially closed September 4, and that a total of 243 responses were received.

Mr. Taylor asked that members review the draft and forward any grammatical or technical changes to Ms. Price by Friday.

Mr. Fleming inquired if some of the recommendations could be applied retroactively. Staff explained that it would depend on the recommendation, but noted that the County does many new solicitations each year and that some longer contracts have renewals built in.

Ms. Freeman made a motion, duly seconded, to accept the report as drafted, with latitude for staff to make grammatical and formatting edits. The motion carried unanimously. The report will be transmitted to the Council on September 15th, and is scheduled for review in the GO Committee on October 15th.

Mr. Taylor expressed thanks to the members, staff, and Mr. Jan Zappold for their participation in this endeavor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.
